

SE100  
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# Introduction to Philosophy

(PH 100-20)

Chaminade University of Honolulu  
Spring Evening 2000, at Kane'ohē MCBH  
April 3 through June 12, 2000 (Tuesdays, 5:30-9:40 p.m.)  
Instructor: Robert Buss (Phone: 528-4067)

**"Introduction to Philosophy"** -- An examination of the role, themes, arguments, and discursive styles that characterize philosophy as an intellectual discipline. Traditional and critical theories from Western and Eastern philosophy will be considered.

**Text:** -- *Fundamentals of Philosophy* (fourth edition, 1996)  
by David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker.  
-- There will also be occasional handouts and study aids.

## Organization of Course and Basis for Grading

The course will be divided into units, explored weekly. A mid-term exam (take-home) and final exam (in-class) will cover the entire range of topics. Quizzes on each unit will be given at the beginning of the next class period; of these eight quizzes, the top five will count toward your grade (no make-up quizzes will be allowed).

Your final grade will be determined as follows --

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|---|---------------------------|
| • Midterm Examination (take-home)<br>(given out May 2, due May 16)                  | 30 percent of final grade |
| • Final Examination (in-class), June 6.   | 30 percent of final grade |
| • Five Quizzes (best five out of eight possible)                                    | 30 percent of final grade |
| • Class participation and attendance,<br>special in-class assignments and exercises | 10 percent of final grade |

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**"People would rather die than think... and most do." (Bertrand Russell)**

**"Arguments, like men, are often pretenders." (Plato)**

**"The philosopher's treatment of a question is like the treatment of an illness."  
(Ludwig Wittgenstein)**

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# GENERAL OUTLINE OF TOPICS

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|---|--|---|
| April 4   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What is Philosophy?</b> "Philosophy &amp; the Examined Life."</li> <li>• The Activity, Practice and Limits of Philosophy.</li> </ul>   | Part 1<br>(esp ch 1 & 2)                            |
| April 11  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thinking About Thinking.</b> Logic and Critical Thinking Skills.</li> <li>• How To Write an Essay Using Philosophical Argumentation and Logic. Formal and Informal logic.</li> </ul>   | Part 2<br>(esp ch 5, 6 & 8)<br>handouts             |
| April 18  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What is Real? Metaphysics.</b></li> <li>• The Mind-Body Problem. Metaphysics and Language.</li> </ul>  | Part 3<br>(esp ch 9-12)                             |
| April 25  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Epistemology or Theory of Knowledge.</b> How Do We Know?</li> <li>• Appearance and Reality. Skepticism and Relativism.</li> <li>• Rationalism (The Quest for Certainty), Empiricism (Trust Your Senses) and Critical Philosophy (A Compromise).</li> </ul>   | Part 4<br>(esp ch 14-18)                            |
| May 2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ethics.</b> What Ought We to Do? What is Right? What is Good?</li> <li>• The Relation of Morality to Character, Consequences and Duty.</li> </ul>  | Part 5<br>(esp ch 20-24)                            |
| <p><i>Take-home mid-term Exam</i> will be given out on May 2 covering units on <i>What is Philosophy? Metaphysics, Theory of Knowledge, and Ethics</i>. Due no later than May 16th.</p> |  |   |
| May 9   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philosophy of Religion.</b></li> <li>• Arguments for God's Existence ("The God of the Philosophers").</li> <li>• The Problem of Evil. The Nature of Religious Language.</li> </ul>   | Part 6<br>(esp ch 25-28)                            |
| May 16  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philosophy of Art. Aesthetics.</b></li> <li>• Theories of Aesthetics: Expressionism, Formalism, Representation.</li> <li>• Art and Audience, Creativity, Communication. Public Art.</li> <li>• Art and Context: The Politics of Representation.</li> </ul>   | Part 7<br>(esp ch 29-30)<br>handouts                |
| May 23  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social and Political Philosophy.</b></li> <li>• Theories of Justice and the Social Contract.</li> <li>• Concepts of Equality, Liberty, Fairness, Human Rights, and Social Responsibilities.</li> </ul>   | Part 8<br>(esp ch 33, 34<br>and 36)                 |
| May 30  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eastern Thought and Theories of Human Nature.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Confucian Philosophy of Man as a Social Being.</li> <li>-- Taoist Philosophy of Nature and Environment.</li> <li>-- Hindu and Buddhist Philosophy of Action (karma, dharma).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review for Final Exam</li> </ul> | Part 9<br>(esp. readings<br>from texts)<br>handouts |
| June 6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Exam</b> (in-class). Exam will cover topics in Parts 3-8 of text.</li> </ul>   |   |